

Low Level Presence (LLP) of safety-approved biotechnology products in the supply chain



IGTC
International Grain Trade Coalition



Briefing Document
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Management of international supply chains for grains, oilseeds and other agri-bulks that have been derived from genetically engineered plants to avoid unnecessary trade disruptions is an area of focus for the IGTC.

We are working to achieve a market and regulatory environment supportive of trade that avoids disruptions in the international trade of grain, oilseeds, pulses, and derived products. Information exchange and providing development of solutions are integral parts of the effort that includes, governments and value chain partners across the world.

Trade disruptions owing to the Low-Level Presence (LLP) of safety-assessed GM events in the supply chain may occur when there are gaps in the timing of product approvals between exporting and importing countries. An important focus of our work includes advising the Global Low-Level Presence Initiative (GLI), a coalition of 15 exporting and importing countries working together to find trade-facilitative solutions on LLP issues. We are also engaged in other global and regional forums such as the APEC High-level Policy Dialogue on Agricultural Biotechnology (HLPDAB). New communication tools on LLP, including two short, animated videos (translated into five languages) and a set of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) are being deployed.

We have also evaluated opportunities for country and region-specific advocacy. Our efforts included examining the potential for LLP-focused meetings and workshops that include government regulators and other stakeholders. The IGTC LLP Policy Team is currently working to identify, articulate and communicate LLP compliance strategies with governments through the GLI and beyond.



Our advocacy tools include:

1. LLP information videos available on YouTube in English, Spanish, Portuguese, Japanese, Mandarin, and Indonesian as part of a Global Alliance on Ag Biotech Trade (GAABT) initiative.

2. An analysis provided by the Canadian Grains Council on various countries' approaches on LLP and the regulatory system for products of biotechnology.

3. A GLI document on Principles, criteria, and practical approaches for addressing Low-Level Presence (LLP) in the International Food and Feed Trade of Plant Material. These measures include the establishment of trade-facilitative and temporary compliance thresholds under defined LLP circumstances.

4. Collaboration with work Global Alliance for Ag Biotech and Trade (GAABT).

5. A focus on IGTC's "hierarchy of policy options" on LLP which are:

- First** Synchronisation of approvals of new biotechnology products;
- Second** Mutual recognition of biotechnology safety approvals; and
- Third** in the absence of the first and second options prevailing, LLP management approaches including process controls and a policy model recommending a threshold of 5% for the presence of a safety-approved biotech product.

REFERENCES

1. IGTC policy document: <https://bit.ly/3FSJsUn>
2. GAABT policy document: <https://bit.ly/3Lf7AI7>
3. GLI document titled Principles, criteria and practical approaches for addressing Low-Level Presence (LLP) in International Food and Feed Trade of Plant Material: <https://bit.ly/3wmMpcF>
4. 2020 advocacy template letter for IGTC participants entitled "Avoiding Unnecessary Disruptions to the Global Trade of Grain Through Managing and Reducing the Potential for Low-Level Presence": <https://bit.ly/39Ug4ks>
5. Whiteboard LLP communications videos: <https://bit.ly/3wyxgDH>, <https://bit.ly/3Lhz75f> and with Portuguese subtitles <https://bit.ly/3MkO9ZI>
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